

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) sterilizing a liquid nutritional formula containing Vitamin D and extensively hydrolyzed protein having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 20%;
 - (b) sterilizing a container; and then
 - (c) aseptically packaging the sterilized liquid nutritional formula in the sterilized container, to produce a sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula containing extensively hydrolyzed protein and Vitamin D.
- 10 2. The method of Claim 1, wherein the container is a plastic package.
3. The method of Claim 2, wherein the plastic package is a resealable multi-dose package.
- 15 4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 30% to about 80%.
5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 40% to about 60%.
- 20 6. The method of Claim 1, wherein the liquid nutritional formula of step (a) further comprises Vitamin C.
7. The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 20% to about 40%.
- 25 8. The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 25% to about 35%.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula containing extensively hydrolyzed protein and Vitamin D is an infant nutritional formula.

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10. The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula is not subjected to heat sterilization after packaging.

10 11. The method of Claim 1, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula is substantially free of intact proteins.

12. A sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula comprising Vitamin D and extensively hydrolyzed protein having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 20%, wherein the packaged formula is prepared by

15 (a) sterilizing a liquid nutritional formula containing Vitamin D and extensively hydrolyzed protein, said protein having a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 20%;
(b) sterilizing a container; and then
(c) aseptically packaging the sterilized liquid nutritional formula in the sterilized
20 container, to produce a sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula containing extensively hydrolyzed protein and Vitamin D.

25 13. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the container is a plastic package.

14. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 13, wherein the plastic package is a resealable multi-dose package.

30 15. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 30% to about 80%.

16. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 15, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 40% to about 60%.

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17. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the liquid nutritional formula of step (a) further comprises Vitamin C.

10 18. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 20% to about 40%.

15 19. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 25% to about 35%.

20 20. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein, wherein the formula is an infant nutritional formula.

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21. The sterilized, aseptically packaged, liquid nutritional formula of Claim 12, wherein the formula is substantially free of intact proteins.

25 22. The sterilized aseptically packaged composition comprising a liquid nutritional formula containing Vitamin D and extensively hydrolyzed protein, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of at least about 20%.

30 23. The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula is packaged in a plastic container.

24. The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 23, wherein the plastic container is a resealable multi-dose package.

25. The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 30% to about 80%.

26. The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the extensively hydrolyzed protein has a degree of hydrolysis of from about 40% to about 60%.

10 27. The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula comprises Vitamin C.

28. The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 20% to about 40%.

15 29. The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula has an average Vitamin D degradation rate reduction of from about 25% to about 35%.

20 30. The aseptically packaged composition of Claim 22, wherein the liquid nutritional formula is substantially free of intact proteins.